

month of the session: One, we can get to a true and honest balanced budget; and, two, we can protect Social Security for future generations.

THE AMERICAN FARMER

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, my friend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) has been a class act ever since I have known him. He has once again shown that this morning.

Mr. Speaker, it should be no secret to the Members of this body that the American farmer produces the best food and fiber products in the world, but what is a secret to many inside Washington's Beltway is the crisis gripping America's rural economies. The deteriorating state of America's farm economy is a national priority and must be addressed. Yet the Clinton administration and particularly USDA only offer up inflammatory rhetoric instead of a substantive emergency aid plan.

In Georgia alone, this year's crop losses from forces of nature approach \$767 million. The story is the same all across rural America. Our farmers need strong leadership, not partisan politics as usual.

I implore the Clinton administration once again to quit playing partisan politics with America's family farmers and to start making meaningful and appropriate decisions at the Department of Agriculture. Let us move on policies to help the American family farmer survive.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY AND LOWERING THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Ways and Means is going to consider an \$80 billion tax cut, and supporters are admitting that we will use part of the so-called budget surplus to pay for it.

There are three things that the people in America get that some people here in this Chamber just do not get:

First, there is no real budget surplus, not unless you want to raid the Social Security trust fund, not unless you want to collect payroll taxes from working families and transfer that money into the pockets of other people in this country.

Secondly, this tax package not only spends the Social Security trust fund, but it also prevents us from starting to pay back the \$5.5 trillion national debt.

Finally, there is no guarantee that any of this so-called surplus is going to materialize given the international financial crisis that we are in today.

This tax cut is wrong for our seniors, it is wrong for our children, and sup-

porters just do not get it. We must protect Social Security, we must start paying back the national debt and we must oppose fiscally irresponsible election-year tax cuts that are not paid for honestly.

AGRICULTURE CRISIS

(Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as a cow/calf operator from western Oklahoma, I can tell you firsthand that the crisis in rural America is real. Our producers are plagued by weak grain prices, drought, bugs, wildfire, and dwindling forage and hay supplies. Good farmers are losing equity and millions of dollars are being lost to our economy.

As our markets become as dry as the land we farm, the Clinton administration has failed to come forward with an emergency aid plan that will help producers make it until next year. These desperate times require swift and concise measures to aid our producers in their time of need. Partisan politics and demagoguery cannot be tolerated during this crisis. The Administration must quit using farmers like a political football and start making substantive decisions at the USDA. Oklahoma crop and livestock losses already amount to well over \$1 billion. Action is needed now.

Come on, Secretary Glickman. Our farmers are waiting.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, next week Republicans will push for a vote in this House to steal \$80 billion from the Social Security trust fund. On behalf of the seniors of central Texas, I will strongly oppose that effort.

It is interesting, the same Republicans who just a few months ago right here in this House were saying it was dishonest to raid money from the highway trust fund are now saying it is okay, though, to raid money, to steal money, from the seniors' trust fund, their Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, if Republicans felt it was dishonest to steal from the highway trust fund, then I assume they are admitting it is dishonest to steal from the Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, I support tax cuts. But I will not vote for a tax cut next week pushed by Republicans that steals money from our seniors' future, from our seniors' security and our cherished Social Security trust fund. I think Republicans should think twice before they say highways and concrete and election promises are more important than saving our Social Security trust fund.

RECOGNITION OF FREEHOLD BOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL IN NEW JERSEY'S 12TH DISTRICT

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a school in my district that is truly fulfilling its mission of providing the best possible education it can to its students.

This past Monday I had the opportunity to visit Freehold Borough High School for a tour of the school and to teach a class on the U.S. Constitution. Throughout my visit I was consistently impressed with the sophistication and knowledge of the students and the innovation and dedication exhibited by the teachers and administrators.

I began my visit by taking part in a lunch that was prepared by the students of the culinary arts and restaurant management class which is just one of the many ways they expand their curriculum to serve the dynamic and evolving opportunities faced by the students of today.

After speaking with Dr. Carolyn Mulhare-McKee, the school's principal, it is abundantly clear that the Freehold Borough High School is committed to providing a first-class education that will prepare its students for the 21st century. The residents and parents of this area should be proud to have such a fine school educating their children.

POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT CONTINUES

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged that the Committee on the Judiciary is about to release the tape of the President's grand jury testimony to the public. I thought that grand jury testimony is supposed to be confidential. So much for due process. The whole purpose in releasing the tape is to once again embarrass and humiliate the President as Mr. Starr did in his report when he put in graphic sexual details so our children could read them on the Internet. We did not even give the President the simple courtesy of seeing the report a day or two before its release even though we had given the Speaker of the House the courtesy when the House Ethics Committee had charges against him. So much for the bipartisanship that was promised to us by the House Republican leadership. The political witch-hunt against the President continues.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would advise all Members that they must refrain from personal references to the President or

to certain charges against the President.

EDUCATION—DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, we must do everything we can to give America's children the education they will need to succeed. I am proud of what we have done so far, passing tax cuts for families with kids and making it easier for them to afford higher education. But there is much more to do, especially for younger children.

State and local taxes pay most of the cost of education. They always have. But while the Federal Government provides only about 7 percent of all the funding for local schools, it creates over half of their paperwork.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have cosponsored legislation to guarantee that at least 95 percent of Federal education funds get to the classroom instead of being consumed by the bureaucracy. We cannot allow Federal paperwork to continue to siphon off valuable time, energy and resources away from the classroom. Our children are too important.

EDUCATION

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of hosting the Secretary of Education, Mr. Richard Riley, in my hometown of Anaheim over the district recess. During that town hall meeting, the Secretary fielded questions from about 200 parents and educators about what we could do to prepare our children for the future. They wanted to know what Congress was doing about education, about relieving the overcrowding that is happening back at home and about preventing the growing incidence of violence among our youth.

While the leadership of this House seems more concerned with the President's private life, I can tell my colleagues that people back home want to know what is going on with education. When I go back home to Orange County on my weekends, they ask me, not about the Starr report, they instead want to know what Congress is doing to protect the future of Social Security and what they are doing to protect the future of our children. Democrats and the President have an agenda that addresses these issues, and I have introduced my own proposal to encourage more school construction so we can have a smaller ratio of children in the classroom. We have to do that.

Get away from this report. Work on education.

□ 1030

SUPPORT H.R. 4033

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to refrain from demagoguery of Social Security during this election year. For the last 40 years, this House has been spending every cent that comes into the Social Security Trust Fund for other social program spending. This year for a unique experience we will start paying down the public debt. That means lower interest rates to help keep the economy strong. A strong economy means it will be easier to keep Social Security solvent. In this election year and into next year, the challenge for all of us is to consider all solutions and not scare seniors or politically demagogue Social Security. Our goal in 1999 must be to fix Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to consider joining with me on my bill, H.R. 4033, that requires that Social Security Trust Fund money can no longer be used to balance the budget.

The bill also provides that any Trust Fund money invested with the U.S. Treasury will be in the form of marketable negotiable Treasury bills, not the unredeemable I.O.U.s now used.

I invite my colleague to cosponsor this bill with me.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, here we are again. In 1993 we passed a budget here, only Democrats voted for it, that brought us to this situation where we now may have a surplus. Only Democrats voted for that budget, yet suddenly the Republicans are saying, well, let us give a tax cut now that we have a surplus.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is a Member in this House who does not find in their public meetings somebody who says:

Congresswoman, Congressman, I am really worried there will not be Social Security there for me when I get to that age.

Well, why are we talking about tax cuts? There is not a real surplus until we stop borrowing from Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, what Democrats want to do is make sure we protect Social Security, we make sure the surplus stays in Social Security so you, our children, our seniors, will have that guarantee there.

It is an outrage to start talking about a tax cut. Yes, Democrats would like to give out a tax cut, but not until we say: Do not borrow from Social Security, make sure that Social Security is protected.

WHITE HOUSE SEEKING TO INTIMIDATE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY

(Mrs. WILSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, last night the television news confirmed that two reporters told ABC News that a senior White House official has been peddling the story to sully the reputation of one of the great leaders in the history of this institution, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE). The senior White House official just does not get it. Or, perhaps worse, maybe he gets it and he just does not care.

We are not considering here some personal indiscretion. This body has a solemn constitutional responsibility to consider the charges before us. This system of justice will not be manipulated by polls or pundits or senior officials who seek to smear and intimidate. This is a Nation governed by law, and it is up to us to keep it that way.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to ask the House leadership to save Social Security first.

I was proud to support the balanced budget agreement last year, proud to support a \$95 billion tax cut that was paid for within the balanced budget agreement. We now have what are being called surpluses, and I join with my colleagues that say we do not have a true surplus until we have protected Social Security and stopped using the Social Security Trust Fund to balance the budget.

This is about our current seniors, it is about my mother, it is about our children, it is about our grandchildren.

I like the tax proposals that are being talked about in committee. I would like to be able to support another round of tax cuts. But we cannot jeopardize our future and Social Security by doing this.

Pay for Social Security first, protect Social Security first, and then begin the next round of tax cuts. That is what is the most responsible approach, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to be responsible and to make sure that before the next steps are taken to spend surpluses that we save Social Security first.

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTING SMEAR JOB ON HENRY HYDE

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that more Members on the other side of the aisle this morning have not been condemning the smear